



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS**

**500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-1020)

**Attachments:**    [AUDIO](#)

Present:            Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews,  
Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Commissioner Susan  
Burton, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Eleanor R.  
Montaño and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused:           Vice Chairperson Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Anne S.  
Hill

Staff present:    Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell. (16-1021)

Call to Order. (16-0944)

**Chairperson Bigby called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.**

**Chairperson Bigby led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of  
silence.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

1. Approval of the February 10, 2016 Minutes. (16-0945)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by  
Commissioner Percy Duran, unanimously carried, this item was approved.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (16-0946)

**Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of January 2016 and reported that there were a total of 18 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls.**

**In continuing her report, Ms. Day reported that there were 4 Outreach visits to the following facilities:**

- **Holiday House**
- **Maryvale**
- **Children's Home of Southern California**
- **Five Acres - Solita House**

3. Internal Services Department (ISD). (16-0947)

**There was no report presented.**

4. Department of Mental Health (DMH). (16-0948)

**Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, reported that DMH is working with the State Department of Health Services on the Continuum Care Reform for Group Homes. Ms. Trachtenberg spoke briefly on State Assembly Bill 403 Foster Youth: Continuum of Care Reform.**

5. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (16-0949)

**Patricia Bolanos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator II, DCFS, reported that during the month of January 2016 there were a total of 713 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 26 referrals in the following categories:**

- **8 Physical Abuse (PA)**
- **7 Sexual Abuse (SA)**
- **7 General Neglect (GN)**
- **1 Severe Neglect (SN)**
- **2 Emotional Abuse (EA)**
- **1 Caretaker Absence Incapacity (CAI)**

**Total referrals closed: 29**

- 3 EA
- 9 GN
- 6 SA
- 11 PA
- 8 Evaluated Out
- 7 Inconclusive
- 14 Unfounded

**Ms. Bolanos Gonzalez also reported that the hold has been removed from Lifecircles Group Home and Sand Hill Group Home remains on hold.**

**6. Probation Department (PD). (16-0951)**

**Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, PD, provided the status of group home AWOLs for the month of January 2016 as follows:**

**There were a total of 106 AWOLs with the following results:**

- 33 Remain AWOL
- 58 Returned to group homes
- 12 Placed in Juvenile Hall
- 3 Camp

**Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with detailed monthly status reports of group home AWOLs during the month of January 2016.**

**7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (16-0952)**

**Commander Henry Romero reported that they contacted the Department of Mental Health staff and they have agreed to present at a future Commission meeting. Also the piping at CRDF has been drained and new isolations valves have been installed to resolve the gnat and brown water issue.**

**The Commission addressed further concerns to Commander Romero and Sergeant Carter regarding their visits to the Men's Central Jail and CRDF and presented a copy of the Corrective Action Form. Commander Romero assured the Commissioners that he will follow up on their**

**concerns.**

8. Office of the Inspector General (OIG). (16-0953)

**Ms. Barbara Phillips, Monitor, OIG, reported that she visited Twin Towers Forensic Lab and was very impressed with the cleanliness. She was also impressed with the new K-9 Dog program the provides inmates with the opportunity to visit and interact with a trained therapy dog.**

**III. COMMISSION REPORTS**

9. Chairperson's Report on various items. (16-0954)

**There was no report presented.**

10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (16-0955)

**Staff reported that representative from the Inmate Welfare Commission and Inmate Services Bureau will attend the March 2, 2016 SBC meeting. Staff also distributed the 2016 SBC Scholarship applications.**

11. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from February 11, 2016 to February 16, 2016. (16-0956)

**During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:**

**Chairperson Bigby visited:**

- **Crescenta Valley Sheriff Station (Briggs Ave, La Crescenta, CA) on February 11, 2016.**

**Chairperson Bigby and Commissioner Zhen visited:**

- **Rosemary Children's Services (Green Street, Pasadena, CA) on February 12, 2016.**

**Commissioners Andrews and Montaña visited:**

- **Men's Central Jail - Hospital Area (Bachet Street, Los Angeles, CA) on February 10, 2016.**
- **Camp Scott (Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA) on February 16, 2016.**

**During the reporting period, the following group facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:**

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- **Commissioners Bhatia, Zhen and Duran visited Twin Towers Correctional Facility (Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, CA) on February 16, 2016 and reported that following:**
    - The inmates complained that deputies are not responding to their requests
    - no hygiene products
    - 42 inmates are using the same shower
    - The vending machines are broken and taking the money without dispensing the product
    - The showers are rusted and dirty
    - They have plumbing issues including no cold water
    - An inmate complained of being assaulted by deputies and now has been suffering from headaches for a month and a half

**Commissioner Montaña shared the following Daily Breeze newspaper articles with the Commission:**

- **Stop Putting Kids in Solitary Confinement (February 7, 2016)**
- **Ex-Sheriff Will Pay Price - But is it Enough? (February 11, 2016)**
- **Baca Guilty of Lying (February 11, 2016)**
- **Knabe Looks Back on Career (February 11, 2016)**
- **Adult and Juvenile Split of Probation to be Studied (February 17, 2016)**

#### **IV. DISCUSSIONS**

- 12.** Review and approval of correspondence to be sent to the Century Regional Detention Center. (16-0957)

**Commissioner Zhen presented the revised CRDF letter and inquired when the Commission would like to send the letter to the Board of Supervisors. The Commissioners discussed additional revisions to the letter to include the information reported by the Sheriff's earlier in the meeting.**

**After discussion on motion of Commissioner Duran, seconded by Commissioner Bhatia and unanimously carried, the letter will be revised to include the additional revisions discussed and the final copy to be sent to the Board of Supervisors.**

- 13.** Discussion on tracking Federal and State legislation that impacts the Special Handling Unit (SHU). (16-0958)

**This item was continued without discussion to the meeting of February 24, 2016.**

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Matters Not Posted**

14. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-0959)

**The following items were introduced for discussion and will be placed on a future agenda:**

- **Discussion and approval on inviting Board Deputies to the SBC meeting.**
- **Discussion and preparation for the March 2, 2016 meeting with the Inmate Welfare Commission.**
- **Discussion and preparation on attending the February 26, 2016 Inmate Welfare Commission town hall meeting.**

**Public Comment**

15. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-0960)

**Mr. Alan Henry, Community Care Licensing informed the Commission that the Children's Home of Southern California has a new license.**

**Adjournment**

16. Adjournment for the meeting of February 17, 2016. (16-0961)

**There being no further business, Chairperson Bigby adjourned the meeting of February 17, 2016 at 1:01 p.m.**